

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DESCENT CONTINUES AT 4.7 PERCENT

Tennessee's Decline Greater than the National Adjustment

**NASHVILLE** – Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD) Commissioner Burns Phillips announces a preliminary unemployment rate of 4.7 percent for April, dropping from the revised rate of 5.1 percent in March. This decrease is greater than the tenth of a percentage point fall the national rate experienced in April, which put the U.S. preliminary rate at 4.4 percent for the month. Tennessee's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has not declined this much since January of 1984.

"It's great to see fewer Tennesseans were out of work during the month of April. Every drop in the unemployment rate, even a few tenths of a percent, represents a person who is back in the workforce and a family who is resting a little easier at night," said Commissioner Phillips.

Over the past year, Tennessee's unemployment rate experienced a slight uptick of a tenth of a percentage point, increasing from 4.6 to 4.7 percent. The national rate decreased by six-tenths of a percentage point, from 5.0 to 4.4 percent.

### LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

April 2017, preliminary

	<u>Labor Force</u>	<u>Employment</u>	<u>Unemployment</u>	<u>Unem. Rate</u>	Month ago		Year ago	
					Mar. '17 rev.	Change	Apr. '16	Change
<b><u>Seasonally Adjusted</u></b>								
UNITED STATES	160,213,000	153,156,000	7,056,000	4.4%	4.5%	-0.1%	5.0%	-0.6%
TENNESSEE	3,199,900	3,048,600	151,300	4.7%	5.1%	-0.4%	4.6%	0.1%
<b><u>Not Seasonally Adjusted</u></b>								
UNITED STATES	159,817,000	153,262,000	6,555,000	4.1%	4.6%	-0.5%	4.7%	-0.6%
TENNESSEE	3,164,500	3,048,200	116,300	3.7%	4.6%	-0.9%	4.2%	-0.5%

"It is the goal of everyone in this department, and that of our workforce partners across the state, to do everything possible to help Tennesseans go back to work, so when we compare year-to-year numbers, we see progress there as well," added Commissioner Phillips.

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NONFARM EMPLOYMENT – BUSINESS SURVEY

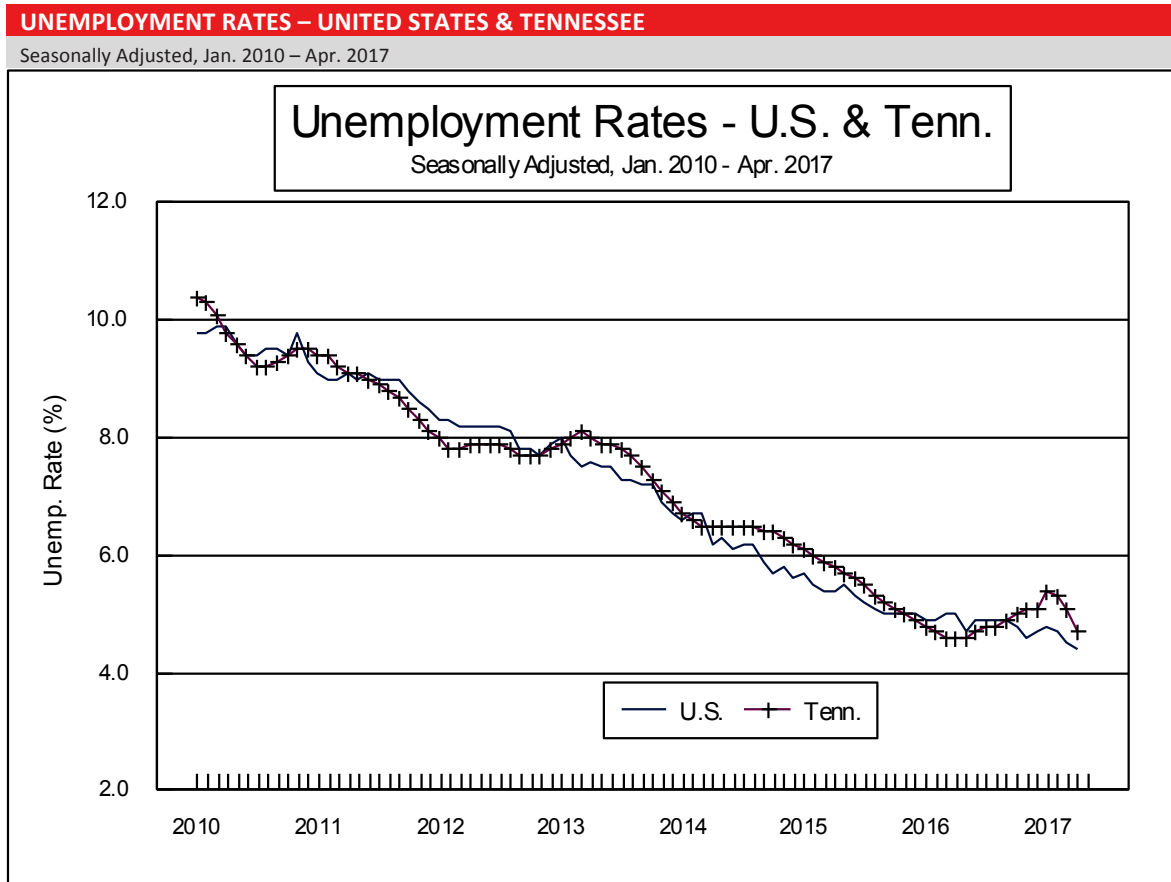
(numbers in thousands)

	Annual Change:			Monthly Change:	
	April 2016	March 2017 rev.	April 2017 pre.	Apr. 2016 to Apr. 2017	Mar. 2017 to Apr. 2017
Total nonfarm	2,953.5	3,016.4	3,010.5	57.0	-5.9
Mining/logging/construction	117.9	125.9	125.7	7.8	-0.2
Manufacturing	342.4	347.1	347.9	5.5	0.8
Trade/transportation/utilities	615.8	625.5	628.1	12.3	2.6
Information	45.6	46.3	45.5	-0.1	-0.8
Financial activities	151.6	154.4	154.9	3.3	0.5
Professional/business services	403.6	414.7	412.4	8.8	-2.3
Educational services	58.8	60.3	60.4	1.6	0.1
Health care/social assistance	363.0	367.5	369.8	6.8	2.3
Leisure/hospitality	318.0	328.1	325.3	7.3	-2.8
Government	426.5	434.9	429.2	2.7	-5.7

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Comparing March and April's nonfarm employment, totals declined by 5,900 jobs. The largest decreases occurred in government, leisure/hospitality, and professional/business services.

Nonfarm employment has increased by 57,000 jobs throughout the year, with the largest increases occurring in the trade/transportation/utilities, professional/business services, and education/health services.



The Economic Analysis and Labor Force Estimates are prepared by the Employment Security division's labor market information specialists. The division reports metrics and contextual information as it relates to employment, income, and population in Tennessee. Labor force topics are narrated in [monthly newsletters](#) and additional resources are available on [Jobs4TN.gov](#).

The county unemployment release for April 2017 will be published on Thursday, May 25, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. CT.

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